

and Suzuki et al (US 5,741,058) for reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Reconsideration of these rejections is requested respectfully in view of the amendment and the argument herein.

With respect to the teachings of the cited art, the following analysis is believed to distinguish the present invention from the cited art so as to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103.

In accordance with the present invention, and with respect to the display unit, the dial and the surface of the display form a single plane. This means that the display, when switched off, is not visible in the dial. All of the embodiments of the present application (cf. in particular the sectional views according to Figs. 2 to 6) show an arrangement of this type.

In contrast, Ogura et al discloses a display unit having a dial 18 which rests on a light-guiding panel 13 (cf. Figs. 1, 3). The light-guiding panel 13 has a recess 25 which is not covered by the dial 18 (cf. column 5, line 42 and Fig. 3). An LCD is arranged in the recess 25 (cf. column 5, lines 42 to 44).

It can also be immediately seen from Figure 3 of Ogura et al that the surface of the LCD and the dial 18 are not arranged as a continuous surface in the same plane. Furthermore, there is a large gap between the dial 18 and the LCD interfering with the readability and being formed by a light-reflecting surface 26,

among other things. Therefore - in contrast to the present invention - Ogura et al does not contain a uniform surface for the display and dial. Consequently, Ogura et al does not anticipate or make obvious the invention.

As regards Suzuki et al, this is distinguishable from the present invention for the reasons set forth in the Remarks in applicants' prior response.

It cannot be seen how an overall view - which even in itself is not obvious - of Suzuki et al and Ogura et al could have led in an obvious manner to the subject matter of the present invention.

It appears that the Examiner is interpreting the word "plane" in terms of its geometric meaning, in which case two objects could be coplanar even though they are located a mile apart. In the present invention, as described in Figs. 2-6 and in claim 11, there is physical contact between the coplanar elements of the display and the dial plate, namely, the polarizing filter and the dial plate film. There results a continuous planar surface, this structure being much different from the structure of Ogura et al wherein there is a gap which breaks the continuity of the planar surface.

The foregoing aspect of contact between front surfaces of the display and the dial plate to produce a continuous surface is set forth in amended claim 1. Claim 11 has been amended to conform with the amendment of claim 1. No new issue is raised by the

amendment of claim 1 because the claimed feature of the amendment was previously addressed by claim 11.


A typographical error is corrected in claim 12.

In view of the foregoing argument the rejections are believed to be overcome, and all of the claims are believed to be allowable.

In the event there are further issues remaining the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment Upon Final Rejection is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 28, 2000.

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